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Note verbale dated 4 September 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to request him to circulate the enclosed text of the Final Memorandum of the International Conference entitled "The Twenty-first Century: Towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World", held in Almaty on 29 and 30 August 2001 (see annex), as a document of the General Assembly, under items 85 (r) and (u) of the provisional agenda.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 4 September 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Final Memorandum of the International Conference "The Twenty-first Century: Towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World"

The world at the dawn of the twenty-first century is dynamic and heterogeneous. It is becoming a more globalized society, in which fundamental shifts are taking place and there are unforeseen opportunities for development. But progress comes with uncertainties and risks.

Today, we are faced with new challenges for global and regional security. At the same time, nuclear weapons, as with other weapons of mass destruction, continue to pose the most serious dangers for humanity.

In this context, the dissolution of the USSR and the threat of the spread of nuclear weapons was a turning point for the international community and a crucial test for those newly independent States that inherited nuclear weapons.

As a result of historical circumstances, Kazakhstan became a de facto nuclear Power, but survived this test having made an historical choice in favour of denuclearized status. This step demonstrated the political maturity and wisdom of the Kazakh leadership, which recognized its responsibility for the security of the country, the region, and the world. The closing of the Semipalatinsk test site, accession to the START agreement and the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and the signing of the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty became important milestones in the establishment of Kazakhstan as a sovereign State. During its 10 years of independence, Kazakhstan has made a considerable effort to strengthen its role as one of the key countries in the field of nuclear disarmament.

We note with satisfaction the significant progress in the work of creating a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. The creation of such a zone will facilitate the strengthening of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime as well as regional security.

Despite differences in political views and the varying levels of economic development and technological possibilities in their countries, the participants in this conference are united in their eagerness to create a safer world and to make the process of non-proliferation irreversible. We call for humanity to use its scientific and technological capabilities not for mutual threats or one another's destruction, but instead to place them in the service of further peaceful development, progress, and human prosperity.

We call on Governments, the international community, and all those who value peace and security to do so.